(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the article written by K. Padmanabhan Nair, Director, Mining and Geology Department, Kerala, published in Malayala Manorama, on 19th November, 2001, mentioning that a private company is producing synthetic rutile in collaboration with a Central Public Sector undertaking IRE Ltd., for several years;and

(b) if so, the factual position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) M/s. Cochin Minerals and Rutile Ltd., (CMRL) a private company in Alwaye, Kerala which produces Synthetic Rutile has been sourcing Ilmennite from Indian Rare Earths Ltd., (IREL) from 1993. CMRL also has arangements with IREL for export marketing of Synthetic Rutile produced by the former.

State quota of IAS and IPS Officers

*359. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR :

PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal to increase the State Quota of IAS and IPS posts;

(b) whether any proposal from any State Government is pending before Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details there of?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONAL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Government of India has received one proposal from Government of Karnataka.

(c) The Government of Karnataka has requested that the ceiling for promotion from state services should be increased from 33-1/3% to 50%.

NPRI In Gujarat

*360. SHRI AHMED PATEL : Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are implementing the National Programme on Rural Industrialisation (NPRI) in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the results achieved, so far, in the State?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) 4 rural clusters have been identified for development in Gujarat under the national Programme on Rural Industrialisation (NPRI). these are :—

Pottery Cluster at Vadali, Leather Crafts Cluster at Khavada (Kutch district), Silk Khadi (Patola Weaving) at Surendra Nagar and Leather Activity at Junagarh.

As reported by the implementing agencies, development works are at various stages of implementation in these clusters.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

International Coir Fair

2578. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI : Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether India International Coir Fair was held at Kochi from October, 11 to 13, 2001 to explore business opportunities on a common platform;

(b) if so, the countries which participated in the fair; and

(c) the trade partnerships and technological alliances signed ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Eighteen (18) countries namely Australia, Bangladesh, China, Germany, Holland, India, Italy, Japan, Korea, Netherlands, Russia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and United States of America had participated in the Fair and the Seminar.

(c) Signing of trade partnerships and technological alliances with the Coir Board was not envisaged at the Fair and the Seminar.

Protection to Co-operative Societies

2579. SHRI KA. RA. SUBBIAN : Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :